

The Veterans Voice



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First Annual New Hampshire Veterans Home Motorcycle Poker Run Raises over \$2,500

The First Annual New Hampshire Veterans Home Motorcycle Poker Run that was held on Saturday, June 12, 2004 raised \$2,500 for the NHVH Benefit Fund. Over 200 participants riding aboard 144 motorcycles joined with residents and volunteers for this inaugural event.

The weather was very cooperative when the registration tables opened at 8:00 a.m. to begin one of the first of several events held during Laconia Motorcycle Week. Residents, Staff and Volunteers welcomed riders to the start of a 70-mile journey through the towns of Tilton, Sanbornton, New Hampton, Meredith, Laconia, Gilford and Belmont. The scenic route included many back roads with views of the country, lakes and mountains.

In addition to cash prizes for the best and worst poker hands, lunch, and a 50/50 raffle, the first 200 registered riders also received a free event t-shirt. Leslie Coad of Penacook won the best hand with a full house of aces and kings. Deb Martinson of Northfield took home the prize for worst hand with only a seven high, and NHVH Resident Joseph



NHVH staff member Lorraine Pouliot rode along with Mark Erquhart during the First Annual New Hampshire Veterans Home Poker Run that was held on Saturday, June 12, 2004.

First Annual New Hampshire Veterans Home Motorcycle Poker Run

(Continued from page 1)

LeMay won nearly \$300 in the 50/50 raffle. Joe also had a chance to take a spin in one of the participant's side cars.

Thanks to the support of several generous sponsors, we were able to provide a variety of refreshments to our riders, including coffee, soft drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers and snacks. Please see our Supporter Spotlight feature on page 13 for a listing of event sponsors and contributors who dared to be brave and took a chance on this inaugural event! We could not have done this without their support.

Several Residents had the opportunity to enjoy the day's festivities. Merrill Franklin provided musical entertainment on his keyboard. Lou Schafer, a fellow motorcycle enthusiast, welcomed the opportunity to socialize with the riders. Lou, who served in the Marines during World War II, also received a surprise from his fellow bikers when Members of the USMC Leathernecks Motorcycle Club presented him with his own leather vest and welcomed him as an honorary member!

Our sincere thanks to all riders, volunteers, staff and residents for their participation!



Resident Lou Schafer greets riders as they enter the registration area for the First Annual Motorcycle Poker Run on Saturday, June 12, 2004.

We will begin planning for next year's event very soon. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 11, 2005!

If you would like to offer your assistance as a volunteer or to inquire about sponsorship for next year's event, please contact Lisa-Marie Mulkern at (603) 527-4400.



Above, members of the USMC Leathernecks begin their 70-mile journey. The Leathernecks were also very helpful with answering questions and providing "how-to" advice on poker run planning. A special thanks to Dave French for his patience and assistance!

Upcoming Events at the New Hampshire Veterans Home

We hope that you will join us for one or more of the following occasions. There are numerous opportunities for you to become involved as we honor our veterans, celebrate the holidays, and participate in recreational activities. The following dates are subject to change, so please call ahead if you plan to attend one of the following events or if you or your organization would like to become involved in sponsoring an event or outing. We look forward to seeing you.

September 2004

Our human resources department is making plans for **Staff Appreciation Day** events that will be taking place on **September 9, 2004**. NHVH will be a host site for the **POW/MIA Vigil** on **September 11-12, 2004** and for the **Alzheimer's Memory Walk** on **September 25, 2004**.

October 2004

Family and friends are welcome to join us for the **Annual Harvest Ball** on **October 11, 2004**. Be sure to start planning your costume for the **Halloween Parade** on **October 28, 2004**.

November 2004

Please join us for our **Veterans Day Ceremony** on **November 11, 2004**. Then **Thanksgiving** is right around the corner on **November 25, 2004**.

December 2004

The holidays will be here before we know it! Mark your calendars now for the following events at NHVH. On **December 8, 2004**, we welcome the **39th Army Band** for a holiday concert. The **Annual Elks Holiday Party** is scheduled for **December 11, 2004**. The **Veterans Joint Holiday Party** will take place the following day on **December 12, 2004**.

Santa makes an advance trip to NHVH each year! He is scheduled to deliver his packages on **December 16, 2004**. We will still have plenty of holiday spirit remaining for the **Third Annual Resident/Staff Sing-Along** on **December 21, 2004**. After enjoying Christmas Day with family and friends at NHVH, we will have only a few days to prepare for our **Rockin' New Year's Eve Party** on **December 31, 2004**.

The volunteer program at NHVH is always looking for new faces. If you would like to become involved by assisting with activities such as special events or Bingo, visiting with Residents during coffee socials, or accompanying Residents on outings, please contact Lisa Perry, Volunteer Coordinator at 603-527-4400 or via e-mail at lisa.perry@nhvh.nh.gov. We have a variety of volunteer positions available, and we welcome new talent and ideas!

Staff News and Events

NHVVH applauds the efforts of its dedicated staff. The following employee update covers the period from January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004.

Welcome to our New Employees...

Employee Name	Position	Date of Hire
Helene Gassett	Nursing Assistant III	01/05/2004
Melissa Underhill	Nursing Assistant 1	01/05/2004
Virginia Martell	Account Clerk III	01/05/2004
Tricia Tyrell	Nursing Assistant III	01/05/2004
Lynn Hardy	Health Facilities Cleaner II	01/23/2004
Thomas Fowler	Nursing Assistant II	02/01/2004
Nancy Waugh	Social Worker II	02/06/2004
Lincoln Adams	Food Service Worker II	02/10/2004
Susan Hines	Laundry Worker II	02/13/2004
Elizabeth Wilson	Nursing Assistant II	02/17/2004
Michael Yeaton	Nursing Assistant Trainee	02/17/2004
Doris Nisbet	Recreational Therapy Assistant I	02/20/2004
Virginia Timmons	Recreational Therapy Assistant I	02/20/2004
Adam Robichaud	Food Service Worker II	02/21/2004
Maureen Nadeau	Nursing Assistant II	03/01/2004
Patricia Tobin	Nursing Assistant Trainee	03/01/2004
Laurie Stockbridge	Food Service Worker II	03/05/2004
Warren Smith	Building. Service Worker III	03/05/2004
Kara Hewes	Food Service Worker II	03/12/2004
Christine Goodwin	Nursing Assistant II	03/15/2004
Laura Cayer	Food Service Worker II	03/19/2004
Nancy Dickerson	Food Service Worker II	03/19/2004
Louise Morin	Recreational Therapist	03/22/2004
Jean Simpson	Health Facilities Cleaner II	03/26/2004
Thomas Heald	Resident Services Supervisor	04/05/2004
Althea Mata	LPN	04/05/2004
Denise Andrus	NA Trainee	04/05/2004
Casandra McAuliffe	NA I	04/05/2004
Jacqueline Decormier	NA II	04/05/2004

Staff News and Events

Staff Members were honored recently for their years of dedicated service to both the New Hampshire Veterans Home and the State of New Hampshire.



Longevity Certificates were presented to the following staff members who are pictured from left: Judy Reid, (10 years), Pat Sleeper (15 years), Alice Brown (10 years), Denise Ouellette (20 years), Anne Howe (15 years), Alexia Andre (10 years) and Vivian Dunlop (10 years). Staff members not present for photo: Maureen Cummings (15 years), Phil Kerr (15 years) and Linda Preston (15 years).

Phil Walton, NHVH Resident Council Chaplain, thanks Joyce Gorka, LPN for her dedicated service to the New Hampshire Veterans Home. Joyce retired on June 30, 2004 after nearly 24 years of service to the State of New Hampshire. During her tenure, Joyce also worked for the Laconia State School and New Hampshire Hospital prior to completing her full-time nursing career with NHVH from 1990 - 2004.



Staff News and Events

Welcome to our New Employees...*(continued from page 4)*

Employee Name	Position	Date of Hire
Johanna Robinson	NA Trainee	04/05/2004
Joy Gagnon	NA Trainee	04/05/2004
Sandy Stedman	Health Facilities Cleaner II	04/16/2004
Kathy Edsall	RN II	04/19/2004
Denise McKim	LPN	04/26/2004
Kiera Weisman	NA II	05/03/2004
Dawn Sliva	NA Trainee	05/03/2004
Ellen Bickford	RN II	05/03/2004
Kimberly Pepper	NA I	05/15/2004
Angela Sode	NA Trainee	05/17/2004
Diann Ross	LPN	05/17/2004
Elizabeth Dorrington	LPN	05/20/2004
Linda King	Laundry Worker II	05/28/2004
Michael Crowell	Food Service Worker II	05/28/2004
Heather Mitchell	Food Service Worker II	05/28/2004
Jennifer Taylor	NA I	06/01/2004
Jennifer Daigle	NA Trainee	06/01/2004
Rosemary Braley	NA Trainee	06/01/2004
Christina Ayoub	NA Trainee	06/01/2004
Tracy Boyd	RN III	06/01/2004

Congratulations to the following employees on their recent promotions:

Kathleen Bliss , NA III
Vivian Dunlop, Chauffeur
Ellen Gilpatric, Cook II
Susan Magoon, NA III
Catherine Walton, NA II
Saralee Sawyer, Health Facilities Cleaner II

Vanessa Caldon, Laundry Worker III
April Gagnon, NA III
Susan Hines, Secretary Typist II
Michelle McDermott, Medical Records Tech.

Welcome to our Home!

The following Residents joined the New Hampshire Veterans Home family as of the dates indicated below. Fellow Residents and Staff members extend a warm welcome!

William McElroy	1-06-04	John Criste	4-19-04
George Carter	1-12-04	Walter Domian	4-22-04
Charles Hayward	1-13-04	James Conway	4-26-04
Joseph LeMay	1-15-04	Norman LaPanne	4-27-04
Armand Tremblay	1-26-04	Augustus Rice	4-29-04
Merrill Franklin	1-28-04	John Nelson	5-03-04
Richard Powers	2-05-04	Ernest Levesque	5-04-04
Richard Russell	2-09-04	Kenneth Ritzen	5-06-04
Hollis Pickel	2-27-04	George Montgomery	5-11-04
David Brandt	3-02-04	Robert Palmer	5-18-04
John Hall	3-03-04	William Whelpley	5-27-04
Charles Hickey	3-04-04	Armand Baron	6-01-04
Walter Christiansen	3-08-04	John Britton	6-03-04
Leonard Pace	3-09-04	Joel Stephens	6-07-04
Leo Martin	3-15-04	Richard Tapply	6-14-04
Gordon Nichols	3-16-04	Richard Kluckholm	6-15-04
George Roberts	3-18-04	Peter Charland	6-21-04
Richard Garnett	4-05-04	Leonard Paquette	6-22-04
Arnold Harvey	4-08-04	Atilio Locicero	6-28-04
		Richard Welch	6-29-04

“Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices.”

- President Harry S. Truman

World War II Memorial Dedication Ceremony

Saturday, May 29, 2004

Nearly 60 years after the end of World War II, the members of “The Greatest Generation” finally have a national memorial to call their own. It is a place to reflect on the sacrifices made and the lessons learned, but most importantly, the World War II Memorial serves as a reminder to all generations - -past, present and future - of the high price of freedom.

Construction of the WWII Memorial began in September 2001. The memorial opened to the public on April 29, 2004 and was officially dedicated on Saturday, May 29, 2004. The memorial honors the 16 million veterans who served during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort on the home front.

The New Hampshire Veterans Home family was unable to attend the dedication ceremony in Washington, DC, but that did not prevent us from being there in spirit! With assistance from American Legion Post 49 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1670, staff and volunteers worked to bring the WWII Memorial Dedication to the New Hampshire Veterans Home via a live broadcast.

Two large screen televisions, provided compliments of Rent-A-Center in Franklin, brought the event to life for Residents, Staff, Family and Friends who gathered to honor our World War II veterans. On behalf of a grateful nation, each World War II veteran received a certificate of Appreciation acknowledging the sacrifices made. Governor Craig R. Benson joined with representatives of several veteran groups in presenting the certificates individually to each of NHVH’s 120 World War II veterans. Several additional certificates were presented to local World War II veterans from throughout the local community.

Following the presentation of certificates, Residents joined with family and friends to view the official dedication ceremony on television. Together, we bridged the distance between Tilton and Washington as we watched, sang, cried and observed a moment of silence along with those who attended in person.



The Memorial Plaza

Photo courtesy of Rick Latoff / American Battle Monuments Commission

World War II Memorial A Tribute to “The Greatest Generation”



NHVH Resident David Pryor (right) gathers with fellow veterans, family, and local members of the community to watch the live broadcast of the National World War II Memorial Dedication Ceremony on May 29, 2004.



NHVH Resident David Arnold displays the Purple Heart that he received for his participation in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. David was a member of the First Division, 16th Infantry.



Governor Craig R. Benson and NHVH Commandant Barry Conway display the dedication day cake that featured an icing photo of the World War II Memorial.

“You are about to embark upon the great crusade toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you... I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle.”

**General Dwight D. Eisenhower
D-Day June 6, 1944**

In Loving Memory

The New Hampshire Veterans Home extends its deepest condolences to the loved ones of the following Residents who recently passed away. We are grateful for their service to this country and for the time that they spent with the NHVH family. Their presence will be greatly missed.

Name	Joined NHVH	Departed
George Husbey	12-26-01	1-20-04
Oliver Alto	12-29-98	1-22-04
James Worrell	8-17-99	1-25-04
Kenneth Wakefield	1-26-99	2-19-04
Orrin Page	6-25-97	2-19-04
Lionel Lessard	12-15-03	2-21-04
Stanley Millett	6-17-03	2-28-04
Edgar Lariviere	7-15-93	3-23-04
Leo Monahan	2-25-93	4-04-04
Leonard Hall	2-27-03	4-16-04
Robert Goodearl	2-02-04	4-17-04
Peter Balon	6-23-03	4-29-04
Normand St. Cyr	8-14-97	5-05-04
John Jaglowski	12-10-03	5-10-04
Robert Thomas	12-08-94	6-02-04
William Tothill	3-27-03	6-07-04
Reta Shea	3-31-04	6-09-04
Joseph Jones	2-10-03	6-10-04

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In Loving Memory

(Continued from page 10)

Name	Joined NHVH	Departed
Rene Mulaire	10-25-01	6-17-04
Kenneth Drapeau	12-06-00	6-24-04
Carl Kotkowski	9-24-01	6-25-04
Lionel Frenette	11-06-03	6-29-04



Members of the Winnisquam Regional High School Band and the American Legion Post 49 Color Guard participate in the NHVH Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 31, 2004.

A poem by NHVH Resident Charles R. Safford

Billy Mertens

Listen to the legend of Billy Mertens
Whose story unfolds as in lifting many curtains
This quiet man who with action speaks loudly
Commanding attention proudly

Billy carefully watches over animals and birds
Faithfully, daily, saying nothing in words
Pigeons, seagulls, foxes and dogs
Know his steps and clogs



NHVH Resident Bill Mertens escorts neighbor dog Riley back to her home after a recent visit.

Every day, faithfully, without fail
Billy delivers all the mail.
A smile, a nod, recognizing one and all,
Like a sailor he answers the call

Need an errand done this day?
He will run it, yes, today.
Rain or shine he gladly serves us all
Spring, summer, winter or fall.

Head bent down in determination
Billy hikes to his destination,
With but one purpose in his loyal mind.
Do we understand his kind?

Men like Billy are few and far between.
Fun loving, honest, and a man we esteem.
Always ready to fulfill your needs,
Soup to nuts boys, but please, no weeds.

Here is a man we all greatly respect.
All of ponder and reflect
There is a giant of a man among us
Quiet and never utters a cuss

Long live this gentle, loving man
With us in this home of all wars, we veterans span
And let us offer a very special medal,
For Billy Mertens, this gentle exquisite man of mettle.

Charles R. Safford is the President of the NHVH Resident Council and a Poet

Supporter Spotlight

Our thanks to the following for their support of the First Annual New Hampshire Veterans Home Motorcycle Poker Run. Thanks to your generous contributions, our inaugural event exceeded our expectations. We are already looking forward to next year!

Event Sponsors

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #32, American Legion Post #72, Exit Lakeside Realty, Hannaford, Handy House, Patriot Chemicals, Poland Spring, Quality Cash Market and The Welch Rabbit



Contributors

AutoServ of Tilton, Bryant & Lawrence Hardware, Chunky's Cinema Pub, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, KHD Cycle Parts, Patril's Restaurant & Bakery, Piche's and Shaw's Supermarket.

Board of Managers

The Residents and Staff of the New Hampshire Veterans Home thank the following members of the Board of Managers for their dedicated service and support:

<i>Joseph Vitale, Chairman</i>	(Disabled American Veterans)
<i>David S. Roberts, Secretary</i>	(Marine Corps League)
<i>Donald R. Caron</i>	(Veterans of Foreign Wars)
<i>Wanda Furbish</i>	(DAV Auxiliary)
<i>William Hooley</i>	(American Legion, Department Commander)
<i>Kevin McKeating</i>	(Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department Commander)
<i>Thomas J. Ritzman</i>	(Disabled American Veterans, Department Commander)
<i>Anthony J. Romano, Jr.</i>	(Marine Corps League)
<i>Robert Wyman</i>	(American Legion)

Holidays and Celebrations



NHVV Volunteers Janet Wisler (left) and Amanda Hamilton (right) enjoy the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at The 1875 Inn. Janet, who began volunteering in the sixth grade, graduated from Winnisquam Regional High School this year. Amanda conducted over 10 interviews for the Veterans History Project as part of a course project in communications. Amanda received her Bachelor's degree from Plymouth State University in May.

At right, staff members take a break along the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade Route through the halls of NHVV. From left are Recreation Department members Pat Sleeper, Chuck Lewis and Linda Tucci who are joined by Commandant Barry Conway.



Representatives of several New London area Junior Girl Scout Troops visited recently. In addition to presenting the Residents with a donation of several boxes of cookies, the Girl Scouts also assisted with serving the ladies tea social and provided entertainment through a variety of songs and poems.

Pictured from left are NHVV Resident Inga Pinciak, Michelle Howell, Jenna Gissler, NHVV Resident Kathleen Shannahan, Lottie Best, Margaret Doheny and NHVV Resident Harriet Hanson.

Faces and Places



For over a year, Residents and Staff have collaborated in several fundraising events to send care packages to troops serving overseas. Their efforts were recently recognized with a return package containing three United States Flags that had been flown over Afghanistan, Iraq and Africa. Brigadier General Jack B. Egginton, USAF enclosed a letter of thanks that read in part, "Thank you for making the connection between yesterday's heroes and today's. Such kindness forges a bond between the generations that exceeds both time and distance." Pictured above are Charles Safford, NHVH Resident Council President and Donna Lamprey, NHVH Housekeeping Department Supervisor.



Above, NHVH Resident Ralph George visits with the newest member of the pet therapy team, - a white boxer named Rocco.



The courtyards of the Life Enhancement Dementia Unit (LEDU) double as bowling alleys. Above, Recreation Department staff member Ginny Timmons assists Residents with the weekly league.

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Barry E. Conway, Commandant

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About the Home

The New Hampshire Veterans Home was established in Tilton in 1890 as the Soldier's Home for Civil War Veterans. Today, the modern facility in its is home to men and women who have served their country and fellow New Hampshire citizens in World War II as well as the wars in Korea and Vietnam. NHVH is the only long-term care facility in the Granite State that is dedicated exclusively to veterans.

As a professional health care provider, NHVH offers a full range of services including residential, medical/dental and nursing care as well as physical/occupational therapy, recreation, and dietetic and social services. Chapel services, exercise groups, arts and crafts, shopping trips, live entertainment and various com-

munity outings support residents' quality of life. NHVH also offers inter-generational programs and animal-assisted recreational therapy. Dedicated staff members work in partnership with volunteers from surrounding communities and numerous service organizations to enrich our residents' lives.

NHVH recently completed construction of a 100-person Life Enhancement Dementia Unit that will serve the needs of veterans who suffer from Alzheimer's and other related memory impairment disorders. The facility addition will enable NHVH to provide comprehensive long-term care services to a total of 250 Residents.

Additional information is available online at our website: www.nh.gov/veterans